Admission to the College of Optometry, for qualified students, usually occurs after completion of the bachelor’s degree. Occasionally, some exceptionally well-qualified students are admissible after three years of undergraduate studies under what is known as the Bachelor’s Degree Option. If admitted to the College of Optometry after three years of undergraduate study, these students may receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in Visual Science as they are completing their Doctor of Optometry degree. The Visual Science degree is awarded after 90 semester hours of undergraduate study and successful completion of the first year of study in the College of Optometry. Students should have a backup plan in place to complete their bachelor’s degree in the College of Arts and Sciences in the event that they are not admitted to the College of Optometry under the Bachelor’s Degree Option. Students are encouraged to contact the Office of Graduate Admissions early in their undergraduate careers for more information and assistance in preparing for admission to the College of Optometry.

**Optometry Prerequisites:**

12 semester credits in Biological Sciences  
  Microbiology with lab  
  Human or Vertebrate Anatomy or A&P I with lab  
  Human or Vertebrate Physiology or A&P II with lab  
12 semester credits in Chemistry  
  General Chemistry, standard one year series, with lab  
  Organic Chemistry, standard one year series, with lab  
  Biochemistry with lab recommended; * may be substituted for O-Chem II  
8 semester credits in General Physics  
  General Physics, standard one year series, with lab  
3 semester credits of Calculus  
3 semester credits of Statistics  
  Recommended from a department of psychology, sociology, statistics, or mathematics  
  * Business or Economics statistics courses will not count  
3 semester credits of General Psychology  
6 semester credits of English Writing  
  Two courses that have been taken from the Department of English or Writing are required (expository, technical, and scientific writing courses are strongly recommended). Speech and communication courses do not meet this requirement. Writing intensive courses from other departments like Philosophy or Religion are not acceptable unless designated as writing intensive on your official transcript.

**Visual Science Degree (in College of Optometry)**

Humanities: 12 semester credits from at least two of the following disciplines, including:

Art, Communications (found in Media Arts), English, History, Humanities, Languages, Music, Philosophy, Religion, Speech, Theater, and First-year Seminar  
  (Upper division work is recommended)
Social Sciences: 12 semester credits from at least two of the following disciplines including:

Anthropology, Business & Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, but **not** First Year Seminar
(Upper division work is recommended)

Pre-Optometry students are advised to complete the Arts and Sciences core requirements. It is wise to begin immediately in Mathematics. In addition, strong students take General Chemistry in their freshman year. Biology, Chemistry, and Mathematics together are a heavy freshman science and math schedule, to be taken with care. Freshman students choosing this schedule in the spring semester should discuss it with their advisors.

**Sample of 4-Year Pre-Optometry Curriculum**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL</th>
<th>WINTER</th>
<th>SPRING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Freshman:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Math 125</td>
<td>2 electives</td>
<td>4 BIO 200 or 201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 First Year Seminar</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 Math 226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Chem 220</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 Chem 230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4 Elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 Psyc 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Sophomore:**            |                   |                       |
| 4 Biol 200 or 201         | 2 electives       | 4 Bio 231             |
| 4 Engw 201                |                   | 4 Psy 150             |
| 4 Language Core           |                   | 4 Engw 301            |
| 4 Biol 230                |                   | 4 Language Core       |
| 16                        | 2                 | 16                    |

| **Junior:**               |                   |                       |
| 4 Chemistry 300           | 2 Electives       | 4 Biology 308         |
| 4 Biology UD              |                   | 4 Physics 204 or 242  |
| 4 Physics 202 or 232      |                   | Major requirements    |
| Major requirements        |                   | Major requirements    |
| 16                        | 2                 | 16                    |

| **Senior:**               |                   |                       |
| Major requirements        |                   | 4 Chem 400 or 380     |
| 16                        | Major requirements | 16                    |

*Note:
Students may start Biol 200 or 201 in first semester of freshman year if eligible for Math 226
Biol 200 and 201 is a prerequisite for Biol 308
Math 122 is a prerequisite for Math 207 and Chem 220
Math 125 is a prerequisite for Physics 202 and Chem 230
Math 226 is a co-requisite for Phys 232

Sample 3-Year Pre-Optometry Curriculum

FALL         WINTER         SPRING

Freshman:

4 Arts/Social Sciences  2 Elective  4 Biol 200 or 201
4 Math 125        4 Math 226
4 First Year Seminar       4 Chem 230
4 Chem 220        4 Electives
16     2    16

Sophomore:

4 Biol 200 or 201    2 Elective  4 Biol 308
4 Elective        4 Math 207
4 Engw 201        4 Foreign Language
4 Foreign Language       4 Engw 301
16     2    15

Junior: (Note: Chem 300 and Physics strongly recommended in Sophomore year if applying to
Optometry program Junior year).

4 Physics 202 or 232   2 Elective  4 Physics 204 or 242
4 Biol 224        4 Biol 240
4 Chem 300        4 Biol UD
4 Elective       4 Elective
16     2   16

Students may start Biol 200 or 201 in first semester of freshman year if eligible for Math 226
Biol 200 and 201 is a prerequisite for Biol 308
Math 122 is a prerequisite for Math 207 and Chem 220
Math 125 is a prerequisite for Physics 202 and Chem 230
Math 226 is a co-requisite for Phys 232

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